

A. Bragg

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

For the National Era.
POWER'S—AMERICA.

Written after seeing the unfinished Statue.

The plaster shape, half wrought stone, was standing side by side;

The one clothed with eager life, with fearsome, and life;

Her earnest gaze was turned toward Heaven, her arms stretched toward the sky.

And inspiration seemed to fall upon her from on high.

Her left hand rested calmly on the faces firs.

Strength in quiet strength, and with triumphant hand exhaled.

Thus did she stand in beauty, the type of fearless youth.

A hand and spirit glowed in her, which vainly strive to warm.

The cold and lifeless stone, from which halfsprang her matchless form.

Once, estate, degrees, and offices.

Were not derived from you, and after honor, wealth, and the power of the world?

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NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTION.

Telegraphic despatches in the morning paper announce that the independent Democrats and Whigs have gained ninety-one Representatives in New Hampshire, and that they have already one hundred and fifty-seven members—two hundred and fifty-four being a majority. Mr. Baker's majority for Governor, it is said, will not exceed 1,400; President Pierce had nearly 8,000.

This result is surprising. Our friends in New Hampshire were confident that they would succeed in reducing the Administration vote, and hoped they might secure an Anti-Nebraska majority in the Legislature, by the aid of the supporters of the Administration hostile to the Nebraska Bill. But the idea of conquering the State for the Opposition seemed extravagant. Party machinery was powerful; the patronage and influence of the President were exerted to the utmost; State pride was appealed to; and the Administration press used in the declaration that the Nebraska Bill was not an issue in the election, that the support of it was not considered a test of Democracy. But it would seem that all these influences failed to control the popular feeling, aroused by the attempt to repeal the Missouri Compromise, and the open committal of the Administration to that desperate measure. Had the State been carried triumphantly by the Administration Party, everybody knows that the fact would have been heralded North and South, as an endorsement of the measure. Instead of an endorsement, the people of New Hampshire have stamped their disapprobation upon it;—and if at this stage of proceedings, when the Public Mind is not fully aroused, such is the popular verdict in the President's own State, hitherto considered bound by the iron links of Party, what will be the verdict in all the other free States, when the People, fully awakened, shall have an opportunity to speak in the ballot-box?

The following communication from a veteran politician in New Hampshire, dated March 11th, three days before the election, and which would have appeared last Wednesday, had it not been mislaid, will show how moderate were the expectations of our friends:

CONCORD, N. H., March 14, 1854.

To the Editor of the *National Era*:

As our little Granite State is the first of the States to hold an election after the passage by the Senate of the Douglas Nebraska Bill, more than common interest seems to be felt in the result of our national election, by interest in all parts of the country. All seem to think the great question, which is now breaking up long-existing party organizations, will have a controlling influence in the result of the coming election in New Hampshire; but such will not be the case, as the result it will have an influence, but not a great one, and the influence it will have here next June.

The great mass of the friends of the Administration will not allow the Nebraska question to enter into the party organization further than to nominate a candidate, representative, &c. Legislator who are opposed to Senator Douglass's bill, and to the election of the United States Senate, next June, of any man known to be in favor of that measure. All the Whigs of this State, and all the Free-Soilers, and more than three-fourths of the Democrats, are opposed to the adoption of the bill, but yet five of the Democrats will withhold their votes from the support of the candidates for offices who have been put in nomination by the usual party conventions. A few will leave the Administration party, and vote with one or the other of the popular parties. The popular party of the popular popularity of Colonel Baker, the nominine of the Democratic party for Governor, half the majority of last year will be lost, while the same party will lose still more in members to the popular branch of the Legislature than it will lose in the votes for Governor.

Appearances indicate that parties in the House of Representatives will be close, notwithstanding the majority was 87 last year in a House of 287 members. Next Tuesday, I believe, the Democrats will poll about 32,000 votes, the Whigs 26,000, and the Free-Soil party 10,000—being an increase to the first-named party of about 1,500 votes to long-past 2,500 gain to the Whigs, and when prepared will be sent to Congress.

These now transmuted relate exclusively to the seizure of the "Black Warrior," and present a clear case of wrong, as it would be to hold the slaves in our country, and to our slaves, and other interests it is vain to expect that a series of unrighteous and offensive conduct shall be made known to her Catholic Majesty's Government; but similar expectations, in other cases, have not been realized.

The offending party is at our doors, with threats to sue us hereafter, by bringing them for places of honor or trust in this State, and Mr. Hibbard, in the House of Representatives, will vote as did Moses, Norris and Williams in the Senate, and will cast all his future votes in New Hampshire by doing. Will Morris, Morris, who did not believe any member of Congress from this State can vote to repeal the Missouri Compromise and ever be again elected to Congress. Half the Democrats who will be elected next July to the Legislature of this State, are pledged to vote against a Senator for Senator who is in favor of Douglass's Bill of Abominations.

Agitation will begin in earnest, in this State, immediately after our election is out of the way, and Democrats will be leaders in the agitation. New Hampshire is to-day as much opposed to the Nebraska swindle as is Old Massachusetts.

THE DETROIT ELECTION.

Some of the Washington newspapers quote from the *Detroit Free Press* the assertion that the Nebraska Question had nothing to do with the late election in that place. There is record evidence of the contrary. Mr. Hyde, the opposition candidate for the office of Mayor, was informed that several of his fellow-citizens would not vote for him unless he publicly declared his views on the Nebraska Bill. Up to that time, he had not supposed the question would enter into the election, but being decidedly hostile to the measure, as he at once avowed his hostility in a letter, which was printed, posted up about town on the day of election, and circulated among the voters. The *Free Press*, the favorite authority with the pro-slavery organs, had the effrontery to pronounce the letter a forgery, but Mr. Hyde promptly set the matter right, in the following note to the *Detroit Tribune*:

Let the reader examine it, and then say how much credit is to be attached to such papers as the *Free Press*, and those that are in the habit of relying upon it as authority.

Detroit, March 9, 1854.

Dear Sir: Observing, this morning's *Free Press*, that the correspondence between you and me, in respect to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, was posted up about town on the day of election, is pronounced a forgery, I deem it but a simple act of justice to you to state that the correspondence was published by my express *approbation* and *consent*, and that the sentiments it contains meet my views of the subject. I have always been averse in favor of leaving slaves in the undisturbed possession of the territory in which it was confined at the adoption of the Constitution, my only objection being to the extension of the Slave Power, as it was then, and is now, manifested in the extension of its authority and its influence with Spain should unfortunately fail. I will not hesitate to use the authority and means which Congress may grant to insure the observance of our just rights, to obtain redress for injuries received, and to vindicate the honor of our flag.

In consideration of the fact, which I earnestly hope may not arise, I suggest to Congress the propriety of adopting such provisional measures as the exigency may demand.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

The message betrays a disposition on the part of the Executive to exaggerate the cause of complaint against Spain, and to provoke a quarrel with her. The House of Representatives, requesting only information concerning the seizure of the *Black Warrior*, the President volunteers to arrange a nation, at peace with us, as an habitual transgressor of our rights, and as guilty of conduct inconsistent with our honor and security, because she has seen proper, following the example of Great Britain and France, to adopt in a general arrangement of Spain for repeated violations of the rights of American citizens and insults to the National flag, and for the adoption of a "policy threatening the honor and security of these States."

This offence is the gravamen of the message. Had it not been for this, the *Black Warrior* affair would not have been exaggerated as it was, and it would not have been made the occasion of a bitter and sweeping accusation against Spain, that the conduct of the predecessors of General Pierce had been marked not only by extreme forbearance, but by pusillanimity.

When were these aggressions on the rights of our citizens, these insults to our national flag, perpetrated? Under the Administration of Mr. Polk? Was he the man to submit patiently to insult and outrage when attempted by such a nation as Spain? Was the Democratic Party, which through him wielded the Administrative power, guilty of tame submission to foreign aggression? Under Mr. Fillmore?

Your statement in last evening's *Tribune*, that my reasons for making them public in the form I did on election day, was the fact that I was informed that several of my fellow-citizens desired to vote for me, I publicly declared my sentiments upon the Nebraska Bill, were literally true. You informed me on Monday morning that such a public avowal was required by gentlemen for whom I had the highest respect, and I promptly and obsequiously consented to do the correspondence printed.

These are the simple facts of the case, and I take pleasure in fully and unequivocally releasing you of the charge of having got up and published the correspondence without my authority or knowledge, and of again asserting,

in the most emphatic manner, that it was published with my cordial consent and approbation.

And now, in justice to myself, and to very many warm personal friends who broke their party bonds, and gave me their devoted support, I desire to say, that I did not meditate or expect that that question would be made an issue at the late City Election, from what transpired between yourself and me, whatever the country may have been the result of the election.

Yours, respectfully, O. M. Hyde.

Joseph Warren.

1854 ABOUT "PROPERTY."

The *Richmond (Va.) Enquirer* denounces the recommendation of the Governor of Alabama to prevent the separation of families:

"This recommendation strikes us as being most unwise and impolitic. It slaves are property, then should they be at the absolute disposal of the master, or be subject only to such legal provisions as are designed for the protection of life and limb. If the relation of master and slave be so inflexible as to fix any limit to the encroachment. If the slaveholder yield one point to the demands of a master, fanatical, but he will enslave the spirit which he aims to annihilate, and will be driven to some moral subordination."

The *Enquirer* is not logical in qualifying the inference from its assumption, that the slaves are property. If slaves are "property," then should they be left to the absolute disposal of their masters. Law might interpose to prevent unnecessary cruelty, as it does in the case of dumb beasts; but a man may shoot his horse dead, if he will; and why not his slave?

You hang a man for the murder of his slave; why not hang him for killing his horse, if both are equally 'property'?"

If slaves are "property," the legislation of the slave States, recognizing them and protecting them as human beings, is an absurdity, and a wanton interference with the rights of the masters. If it be not this, but reasonable, and then, the slaves are not property, but persons.

If the relation of master and slave is ingrained for one purpose," says the *Enquirer*, "it would be difficult to fix any limit to the encroachment." Well—the relation has been ingrained for the purpose of protection and service.

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